



Town of Warren, Rhode Island

Minutes of the Economic Development Board

The Town of Warren, RI Economic Development Board met at a Regular Meeting on June 20, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall, located at 514 Main Street. Board members present were Sara Volino, Paula Silva, Karen Dionne, Brandt Heckert, Kate Dickson, Joel Carey, Spencer Morris, Darcy DaCosta, and Mark Lombardi. Ex officio member Caroline Wells was absent. Council member Davison Bolster was in attendance. Lisa Raiola was present to update the board on the progress of Hope and Main. Kristin MacDonald was present at the meeting to serve as Secretary to the EDB.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Ms. Volino stated that the following item is to be removed from the Agenda: **Item 3. Discussion and Action regarding Narragansett Brewery, including inviting Planning and Zoning Boards to collaborate on developing a proposal to invite them to choose Warren for their new facility.** Ms. Volino stated that she was requested to remove the item from the agenda by Anthony DeSisto, the Town Solicitor and that the issue could be discussed in further detail at the EDB meeting with Mr. DeSisto scheduled for Monday, June 27th, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Heckert requested that an update on parking signage be added to the agenda. Ms. Silva made a motion to add an update on parking signage as agenda item, Mr. Morris seconded, and all members were in favor.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting on May 16, 2011

The minutes from the regular meeting held on May 16, 2011 were reviewed by the members via email. Ms. Dickson made a motion to accept the minutes, the motion was seconded by Ms. Dionne, and all members were in favor.

2. Update on Hope and Main and strategies to support the project and Ms. Raiola

Ms. Raiola thanked the EDB for participating in the Hope and Main event held on Thursday, May 12, 2011. The event was successful, well attended, and has resulted in great feedback. Ms. Raiola reported on her recent meeting with the RIEDC and reported that unfortunately Hope and Main does not meet the criteria for a loan with this program. However, Ms. Raiola had the positive news that Hope and Main qualifies for USDA funding. The terms of the USDA loan would be 45 years at 4.5% for \$2.3 million with closing in 45 days. She noted that if Hope and Main receives the USDA funding that it will

be in a better position to qualify for additional grant money through government and private foundations. Ms. Raiola thanked Caroline Wells for her support as well as Eric Busch, the financial advisor for the project. The Board discussed additional funding strategies with Ms. Raiola and offered her support and assistance for Hope and Main in the future. Ms. Raiola left the meeting at this time.

3. Discussion and Action regarding Narragansett Brewery, including inviting Planning and Zoning Boards to collaborate on developing a proposal to invite them to choose Warren for their new facility

This item was removed from the agenda.

4. Discussion on Main Street bus shelters (Dickson)

Ms. Dickson discussed the RIPTA TransART bus shelter program and said she had contacted the program director, Brooks Almonte. RIPTA will provide 80% of the funding for the proposed shelter and the remaining 20% of the funding would be provided by the community. Ms. Dickson reported that Caroline Wells maintains that the community portion can easily be obtained through community block grants and other funding. The Board discussed the design aspect of the bus shelters and potential locations for two potential shelters. The shelters would be owned by RIPTA but maintained by the town. Ms. Silva said that the Warren Arts Initiative could be involved in the design process. Ms. Dickson stated that she will be meeting with Mr. Almonte and Ms. Wells in the near future.

5 Discussion and Action on Warren Arts Initiative logo (Silva)

Ms. Silva stated that the Warren Arts Initiative “Artist’s Happy Hour”, held on May 25, 2011, was well attended. The group is continuing to gather artist’s surveys in order to construct a database of the arts community in Warren. Ms. Silva presented the group with a sample of a logo designed for the Warren Arts Initiative by Mary Dondero. The Board agreed on accepting the design for the logo. Mr. Lombardi briefly discussed his plans to use space in the Parker Mill complex as incubator space for the arts community.

6. Update on Parking Signage

Mr. Bolster stated that he has the specifics needed to go forward on ordering the parking signs needed for the downtown municipal parking area, including the post office and the library. He will order the signs from Silktone by the July meeting and will coordinate with the Department of Public Works to have the signs installed.

Ms. Dickson reported that the Discover Warren website will be up and running in the next few days.

Mr. Cary made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Dickson seconded, and all members were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin M. MacDonald

*Minutes submitted by Kristin MacDonald
July 10, 2011*

